

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00227 140839Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W

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R 140614Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 365

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0227

E.PO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PP

SUBJECT: CABINET RESHUFFLE

1. THE CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN
MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ON MARCH 12:

A. JUSTICE. THE CHIEF MINISTER HAS RELINQUISHED THE JUSTICE
PORTFOLIO WHICH HE HAS HELD FOR NEARLY EIGHT MONTHS TO EBIA
OLEWALE.

B. COMMERCE. EBIA OLEWALE RELINQUISHED THE COMMERCE PORTFOLIO
TO BOYAMO SALI. SALI WILL ALSO ASSIST THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE,
FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO TRADE.

C. SIR PAUL LAPUN WILL CONTINUE AS MINISTER FOR MINES AND
ENERGY BUT WILL ALSO ASSIST THE CHIEF MINISTER IN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT MATTERS. (LAPUN IS FROM BOUGAINVILLE AND PRESUMABLY
WILL ALSO BE USED AS LIAISON WITH THE BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT.)

D. STEPHEN TAGO WILL CONTINUE AS CONSERVATION AND
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BUT WILL ALSO BE THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE WILD LIFE BRANCH OF THE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, STOCK
AND FISHERIES.

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PAGE 02 PORT M 00227 140839Z

E. IAMBAKEY OKUK WILL RETAIN HIS PRESENT PORTFOLIO FOR TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION AND WILL ALSO ASSIST THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, YANO BELO.

F. THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INTERIOR MINISTER JOHN POE.

G. PITA LUS IS NOW ENTITLED MINISTER FOR POLICE RATHER THAN MINISTER FOR STATE (POLICE MATTERS).

H. THE CHIEF MINISTER HAS TAKEN PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMMISSION, WHICH WAS FORMALLY UNDER THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, KAIBELT DIRIA. DIRIA WILL BE NOW ENTITLED MINISTER FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

I. OTHER MINISTERS RETAIN THEIR PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. COMMENT: THE CURRETN RESHUFFLING WAS ACCURATELY CHARACTERIZED BY THE CHIEF MINISTER AS A SERIES OF ARRANGEMENTS CALCULATED TO ENABLE THE VARIOUS MINISTERS TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN ACHIEVING THE AIMS AND POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO RESULTED IN THE FILLING OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY WHICH HAD REMAINED IN THE CHIEF MINISTER S HANDS AFTER THE DISMISSAL OF JOHN KAPUTIN. OF LITTLE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPORTANCE, BUT OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS THE EXTENSION OF THE CHIEF MINISTER S PERSONAL CONTROL OVER THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMMISSION. ADDITIONAL COMMENT SEPTEL. OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM00227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750089-0668
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750349/aaaabsha.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINET RESHUFFLE
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PP, (OLEWALE, EBIA), (SALI, BOYAMO), (LAPUN, PAUL), (TAGO, STEPHEN), (OKUK, IAMBAKEY), (POE, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006